

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 /092 W
-----281430Z 088967 /40

R 271724Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4463
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08888

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD
SUBJECT: SECOND UNCTAD RUBBER CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 119739

1. WE INFORMED ROBIN HOPE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, WHO WILL REPRESENT UK IN GENEVA, OF U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF PRODUCER PLANS AND OF U.S. DESIRE TO ESTABLISH SMALL WORKING GROUP OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. HOPE SAID THAT HE SHARES U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF PRODUCER VIEWS DISCUSSED PARA 2 REFTEL. IN ADDITION, HE HAS
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LEARNED THAT A PROPOSAL FOR A BUFFER STOCK OF 400,000 TONS WILL BE SURFACED IN GENEVA AND THAT THE INITIAL PRICE RANGE TO BE DEFENDED WILL BE MALAYSIAN \$ 150 TO 210 PER KILO.

2. HOPE AGREES THAT CONSUMER COORDINATION SHOULD BE TAKEN AS FAR FORWARD AS POSSIBLE. UNFORTUNATELY THERE

HAS NOT BEEN MUCH PROGRESS IN BRUSSELS ON DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT POSITIONS WITHIN THE EC. THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED NOT TO PRESS AHEAD ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME AS THEY WOULD RATHER LET PRESSURE FROM THE JUNE MEETING DO THE WORK FOR THEM. DURING CONSUMER MEETINGS HOPE INTENDS TO FLOAT IDEA OF A LEVY AT POINT OF EXPORT ("VAGUELY CUM COCOA") AS A MEANS OF FINANCING THE BUFFER STOCK. WHILE SUCH A PROPOSAL WILL RAISE CONSUMER PRICES, IT HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF GETTING THE CONSUMER COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS OFF THE HOOK ON CONTRIBUTIONS. HE SAID THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR THE FRG AND HIS OWN GOVERNMENT. OWING TO THE WELL-KNOWN UK BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS, HE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO COMMIT HIS GOVERNMENT TO THE CONSIDERATION OF FINANCING A RUBBER SCHEME.

3. HOPE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF CONTINUING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SMALL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. HE DOUBTS WHETHER ANYTHING AT ALL WILL BE DONE IN PLENARY SESSIONS AND WILL SUGGEST POSSIBILITY OF THE SMALLER GROUP MEETING CONCURRENT WITH THE PLENARY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ASHLEY HEWITT WILL BE IN GENEVA TO REPRESENT U.S. HE SAID HEWITT PLAYED PARTICULARLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN JANUARY AND THAT HIS PRESENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN EFFORTS TO COALESCE CONSUMER POSITIONS.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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